

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

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In the matter regarding:)	
)	
The sale, movement, or release)	ORDER NO. AI-03-04
of certain rodents in the State)	
of Iowa)	

COMES NOW, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and makes the following findings of facts:

1. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is charged, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 163, with the suppression and prevention of infectious and contagious diseases among animals within Iowa.
2. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is also charged pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 162, with the regulation of animals in the pet industry including the transportation of the animals, the sale of the animals, and only permitting the sale of animals which appear to be free from infectious or communicable diseases.
3. In recent days, there have been findings that individuals in four states have been diagnosed with, or are suspected to have contracted, a disease known as “monkeypox”.
4. Monkeypox is a serious, and potentially fatal, infectious and contagious disease among both humans and some animal species.
5. Prior to the recent cases, there had been no diagnosed cases of monkeypox in the United States.

6. The United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating the cause and origin of the monkeypox virus in the United States .
7. At this time, the investigation by CDC and FDA has determined that the probable source of introduction and spread of the monkeypox virus into and within the United States is traceable to infected rodents from Africa and prairie dogs exposed to those rodents.
8. On June 11, 2003, the CDC and the FDA issued a joint order embargoing the transportation or offering for transportation in interstate commerce, or the sale, offering for sale, or offering for any other type of commercial or public distribution, including release into the environment, of prairie dogs native to the United States and six species of rodents native to Africa.
9. The animals included by the CDC/FDA order are all of the following:
 - a. Prairie dogs (*Cynomys* sp.);
 - b. Tree squirrels (*Heliosciurus* sp.);
 - c. Rope squirrels (*Funisciurus* sp.);
 - d. Dormice (*Graphiurus* sp.);
 - e. Gambian Giant Pouched Rats (*Cricetomys* sp.);
 - f. Brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus* sp.);
 - g. Striped mice (*Hybomys* sp.).
10. The CDC and FDA have encouraged individual states to take similar action regarding the transportation, movement, sale, public display, or release into the environment of the same six species of animals.

11. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has concluded that the potential animal and public health concerns regarding the monkeypox virus require that the Department take actions that parallel the CDC/FDA order.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, under authority of Iowa Code chapters 162 and 163:

1. That the transportation or offer of transportation, or the sale, offering for sale, or any other commercial or public distribution of the above-enumerated species is prohibited until further notice. In addition, it is prohibited for any person to release any of the above-enumerated animals into the environment or permit the release of such animals. The prohibitions contained in this order include both interstate and intrastate transportation, movements, sales, and releases.
2. The prohibitions in this order do not apply to individuals who transport the above-enumerated animals to veterinarians or animal control officials or other entities pursuant to guidance or instructions issued by federal, state, or local government authorities.
3. Any person violating the terms of this order is subject to a civil penalty in an amount up to \$1000 for each violation and/or criminal prosecution.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Patty Judge
Secretary of Agriculture
State of Iowa